



March 2, 2015

Island Insight

This publication is published weekly and contains information about, for, and of interest to the Island Workforce. This document is also available on the Garrison Internet page under "Information" and on the installation website at www.usagria.army.mil under "News" and then "Local News."

Island Insight Submission: <https://home.ria.army.mil/sites/ii/ii.cfm>

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First Army Commander Discusses Changes in Mission, Structure

First Army is making the training of Army National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers more efficient and effective. That's according to the unit's commanding general, Lt. Gen. Michael S. Tucker, who spoke March 3 with the editorial board of the Quad-City Times. After 13 years of training troops for missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, Tucker said First Army is experiencing a "paradigm shift" from postmobilization training conducted at major military installations to premobilization training conducted at unit's home stations. "If I can go out and reach out to you at your home station and help you better manage your training... then, when I do mobilize you, the ramp is not as steep, and it's not as long," he said. First Army continues to train and mobilize 10,000 Soldiers annually for deployments in the Horn of Africa, Kosovo, Egypt, Kuwait, Guantanamo Bay and other worldwide locations, Tucker noted. ([More](#))



Upcoming Dates

- March 8:** Daylight Saving Time Begins
March 10-11: DA Photos, Bldg. 56 Basement, 7:20 a.m. – 3:40 p.m.
March 10: Community Special Events Committee Meeting, Bldg. 60, Heritage Hall, 1 p.m.
March 11: Tenant Senior NCO Meeting, Bldg. 312, Arsenal Island Golf Clubhouse, 11:30 a.m.
March 18: Council of Colonels, Bldg. 312, Arsenal Island Golf Clubhouse, 11:30 a.m.
March 19: DeCA AAFES & FMWR Advisory Council Meeting, Bldg. 90, Rm. 12, 1 p.m.
March 20: Hearts Apart Support Group, ACS, Bldg. 110, 10-11 a.m.
March 23: Women's History Month Observance, Bldg. 60, Heritage Hall, 1 p.m.
March 24: Retirement and Retreat Key Leader Rehearsal, Bldg. 60, Heritage Hall, 1 p.m.
March 25: Retirement and Retreat Full Dress Rehearsal, Bldg. 60, Heritage Hall, 1 p.m.
March 26: Newcomers Orientation, Arsenal Island Clubhouse, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
March 26: 2nd Quarter Retirement and Retreat, Heritage Hall, Bldg. 60, 2 p.m.
March 29: RIA Museum Vietnam War Exhibit Grand Opening, RIA Museum, Bldg. 60, 2 p.m.
April 1: Military Singles & Geo-Bachelors Dinner, USO, 5-7 p.m.

ASC Commanding General Addresses Local Business Executives

Maj. Gen. Kevin O'Connell, commanding general, U.S. Army Sustainment Command, addressed a large group of Quad Cities business executives during the annual Quad Cities Executive Club Breakfast at the iWireless Center, here, March 6. The general spoke of the command's importance to the Army's overall mission, its global impact and his role as senior mission commander of Rock Island Arsenal. "The main impact of my role, as senior commander of Rock Island Arsenal is to make Rock Island Arsenal as strong as it can be," he said. "I think it's a great place to live, work and play." ([More](#))



Army Emergency Relief Annual Campaign Kicks Off at RIA

The Army Emergency Relief annual campaign kicked off this week, here. This year's campaign, themed "a Soldier's first choice," runs March 2 -- April 30. AER was incorporated in 1942 as a private, nonprofit organization to collect funds for distressed Soldiers and their families. AER provides emergency financial assistance to Soldiers, both active-duty and retired, and their families through interest-free loans and grants. ([More](#))



Hammack Tells Congress BRAC Round Needed

The assistant secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment was on Capitol Hill March 3 to discuss the Army's 2016 military construction budget and explain the need for base realignment and closure. "We need a round of base closure and realignment in 2017," said Katherine Hammack in testimony before the House Armed Services subcommittee on readiness. "Without a BRAC and the realized cost-savings, the only alternative is to make up for shortages in base funding by increasing risk in readiness." Hammack told the committee the Army believes it can meet the primary missions of the Defense Strategic Guidance of today, but the future has become "tenuous," because fiscal challenges brought on by the Budget Control Act strain "our ability to bring into balance readiness, modernization and end strength." ([More](#))



2016 Budget Aims to 'Arrest' Deterioration in Military Facilities

The budget the Defense Department submitted for 2016 aims to let the military begin to dig out from billions of dollars in deferred facility maintenance caused by two prior years of sudden spending cuts. But Pentagon officials freely acknowledged Tuesday that even their own proposal isn't a complete solution to neglected infrastructure, and relies largely on the hope that Congress will waive the defense funding caps it has already passed. DoD's overall budget proposal would bust the Budget Control Act's spending limits by \$35 billion in 2016, and some of the extra funding would be used to partially restore the facility sustainment, restoration and modernization programs that were slashed by one-third in 2015. ([More](#))



Bill Would Switch Federal Pensions to "High Five" System

Federal employees would see their pension calculations changed from the average of their highest three years of pay to the average of their highest five years of pay, under a new bill introduced March 4. The legislation, introduced by Rep. Bruce Westerman, R-Ark., would go into effect Jan. 1, 2017 and would save \$3.1 billion over a 10 year period, according to calculations by the Congressional Budget Office.



The bill also applies to all members of Congress and their staffs. Military pensions would not be affected. ([More](#))

An End to Government Shutdowns? New Bill Proposes Fix

The federal government – and its employees – would no longer have to fear a possible government shutdown, under legislation being developed by Rep. Alan Grayson, D-Fla. The Shut Down the Shutdowns Act would automatically implement a continuing resolution for any program, project or activity for which funding has lapsed without Congressional renewal, according to a letter Grayson sent to members of the House March 3. The bill would appropriate funding at the same level as the previous fiscal year – serving as a stopgap measure until Congress approves new funding legislation. ([More](#))



DoJ Will Notify Nearly 1 Million Feds of Eligibility to Join Shutdown Lawsuit

About 1 million federal employees will soon be receiving an email on their federal accounts informing them of their eligibility to potentially win some money. The notice is no phishing scam, however; rather the email will come from the Justice Department to alert those who were forced to work without pay during the federal government shutdown in 2013 to let them know they can sign up to join a lawsuit. A federal judge ruled in August the government violated federal labor laws when it delayed payments to employees when agencies shuttered their doors in October 2013. The suit was originally brought by five Bureau of Prisons employees seeking damages after they were forced to work for two weeks during the shutdown but did not receive their full paychecks until after agencies reopened. ([More](#))



House Bill Blocks Cuts to Temporary Duty Per Diem

House lawmakers introduced a bill this week that would block the Defense Department from slashing per diem allowances for long-term temporary duty. The DoD is looking at a 25 percent reduction in the allowances for TDY longer than a month, and a 45 percent cut for assignments longer than 180 days — a move that could require troops and civilian workers to cover about \$22 million in travel expenses annually. The move is a cost-saving measure in a time of tight budgets. But Federal unions called the proposal “wrongheaded” and have persuaded a group of 26 lawmakers to oppose it and prompted the new legislation co-sponsored by congressmen Derek Kilmer, D-Wash., and Walter Jones, R-N.C. ([More](#))



Change Your Clock, Change Your Batteries

The Office of the State Fire Marshal Reminds Residents to Change Their Smoke Alarm Batteries as Clocks are Set Forward This Sunday

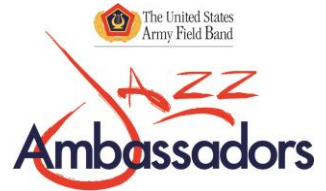
As a biannual initiative to keep Illinois families safe, the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal reminds the public to change their smoke alarm batteries as clocks are set forward one hour this Sunday, March 8. Daylight savings is the perfect time to ensure your smoke alarms are working properly. Smoke alarm batteries should be changed twice a year in an effort to prevent injuries and deaths in case of a fire emergency. "Changing your smoke alarm batteries can save a life," said State Fire Marshal Larry Matkaitis. "Safety begins at home. Take a moment as you set your clocks one hour forward Saturday night to make sure your smoke alarm is



functioning properly." On Sunday, March 8, residents will set their clocks one hour forward from 1 a.m. to 2 a.m. CST. On Saturday evening adults should to replace smoke alarm batteries. It's also a great opportunity for parents to teach children how to identify the sound of a smoke alarm and practice a home escape plan. Last year in Illinois, more than 3,596 structure fires were reported. Smoke alarms alerted occupants in more than 2,220 of those structure fires, about 62 percent of the incidents. ([More](#))

Army Jazz Ambassadors to Perform at Augustana College

The internationally acclaimed Jazz Ambassadors of Washington, D.C., will continue its long tradition of presenting free public performances when it appears at Augustana College's Centennial Hall (3703 7th Avenue) on **March 15** at 2 p.m. The Jazz Ambassadors' concert in Rock Island is sponsored by Augustana College and The Dispatch/Rock Island Argus. The Jazz Ambassadors is the official touring big band of the United States Army. Formed in 1969, this 19-member ensemble has received great acclaim at home and abroad, performing what many consider America's greatest original art form, jazz. Concerts by the Jazz Ambassadors are programmed to entertain all types of audiences. The band's diverse repertoire includes big band swing, bebop, Latin, contemporary jazz, standards, popular tunes, Dixieland, vocals and patriotic selections, many written or arranged by members of the Jazz Ambassadors. ([More](#)) ([Program](#))



Corps to Host Boating Safety Classes

Boating can be a fun and entertaining summer activity but one close call on the water can end it all. To help get ready for the upcoming boating season, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi River Project will be offering free boating safety education classes at the Mississippi River Project Office in Pleasant Valley, Iowa. Classes will be offered **March 14, March 28, April 11, April 25, and May 2**. Only one eight-hour class is required to complete certification. Pre-registration is required, space is limited, and the classes fill quickly. To register, contact the park rangers at (309) 794-5338.



Striving for Continuous Improvement!

Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) is the Army's web-based application for receiving and responding to customer feedback and is your direct link to the Garrison Team at Rock Island Arsenal. Your voice can make a difference today. The USAG-Rock Island Arsenal staff is actively using ICE program feedback to drive continuous improvement of programs and services. The Garrison is dedicated to improving customer satisfaction by using the information that is provided by your input. ICE can assist in identifying customer issues and best practices. ICE can also identify systemic issues, develop solutions to improve our services and programs leading to enhanced quality of life for Soldiers, Families and Civilians. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you better. Go online to <https://ice.disa.mil>, select - USAG-Rock Island Arsenal, where more than 100 services can be rated. Please use the link below to answer five questions on how to improve the ICE program at Rock Island Arsenal (some users may have to copy and paste the link into their browsers). www.surveymonkey.com/r/MD5MQQB Thank you for your participation.



Tax Season Is Here

Income tax filing season is here and the Rock Island Arsenal will again host a free tax assistance center. The Rock Island Arsenal Tax Center, located on the 1st Floor of Bldg. 390, will be operational effective Jan. 28. The tax center serves members of the RIA community eligible for legal assistance services - primarily active duty service members, military retirees, and family members. In a change from recent years, an appointment is required and there is no



"drop-off" service. Appointments will be available weekdays, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., starting the last week of **January through April 15**. Most appointments can be expected to take about an hour, with more complex returns taking longer. In accordance with IRS guidelines, the tax center may prepare and submit most – but not all – federal and state income tax returns. For example, we cannot prepare returns for a home-based business. If you expect your return to be complex, please discuss that with us when you call, and we can advise as to whether we will be able to prepare your return. To schedule an appointment please call 309-782-1709/8457. Please bring the following to your appointment: a photo ID; your social security card (or official SSA correspondence with your SSN on it); documents showing income of any type (W-2s, 1099s, etc.); documents to support any deductions/credits; copy of last year's return; direct deposit information; dependents' birth dates.

Blood Drives

The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center is hosting a blood drive at the Naval Reserve Center (across from the Clock Tower Building, Bldg. 218), on **Friday, March 20, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.** If you would like to donate at this blood drive, feel free to e-mail SHoegerl@mvrbc.com with the time you'd like to schedule, or call their Donor Center at 563-359-5401, ext. 119. A 3rd shift blood drive will be held in the Cafeteria (Bldg. 211) beginning at 2:15 a.m. on **Thursday night, March 19**. To sign up for a blood drive held on either the 2nd or 3rd shift, donors should contact their shift supervisor.



Charlie Corpuscle asks, "How many units of blood were donated for patients at our local hospitals through blood drives held on Arsenal Island in 2013?" Answer: 969. FYI – Each of those donations can touch the lives of as many as four patients in need!

The Army encourages its employees to volunteer as candidates for any of the variety of medical donor programs, including blood, bone marrow, and organ donor/transplant programs. For additional information [click here](#).

VIOS Schedule for March, April, and May

Official DA Studio Photography (DA, Government passport and command photos) will be offered at Rock Island Arsenal on **March 10, 11, 12, April 7, 8, 9; and May 5, 6, 7**. Appointments may be scheduled online by submitting a DA Form 3903 Work Request using the [Visual Information Ordering Site](#) for the available times: 7:20 a.m. - 3:40 p.m. Click on "Frequently Asked Questions" on the [VIOS site](#) for more information. Walk-in appointments are not available. Photographs will be taken at the Photo Studio (Bldg. 56, basement, by elevator). Priority is: 1. Active duty Soldier's DA photos; 2. Official government passport photos; 3. Official command photos; 4. DA photos for Army Reserve and Army National Guard Soldiers (not on active duty). The 8"x10" head and shoulders - command photos will be printed and available digitally. Additional prints can be ordered in [VIOS](#). To obtain an official government passport photo: 1. Schedule a passport photo appointment at the [RIA VIOS website](#). 2. Go to transportation to obtain a printed DA Form 3903,

Multi-Media/Visual Information Work Order, signed by the passport agent in Block 14. 3. Present that DA Form 3903 to the photographer before the passport photo is taken. You will receive two 2" x 2" passport photos. All scheduled dates can be found on the [RIA VIOS website](#) FAQ.

Denim & Diamonds Dinner and Charity Auction

The Rock Island Arsenal Welcome Club invites you to the Inaugural Denim & Diamonds Dinner and Charity Auction on **April 10**, 6-10 p.m., at the Arsenal Island Golf Clubhouse. Cost is \$25 per person which includes dinner; menu items include BBQ buffet, brisket and chicken, potato salad, baked beans, and peach cobbler. All proceeds to benefit scholarship and community outreach grants. Tickets are on sale now. Contact RIAWCVP@yahoo.com for more information.

Honor Flight Golf Outing

Join us for the Inaugural R.I.A. Federal Credit Union Honor Flight Golf Outing, Friday, **April 24**. Check-in begins 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. with a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$300/team or \$75/person. There's a 36 team limit. Lunch will be provided at check-in. A 19th Hole Party at the Clubhouse is also included. Proceeds will benefit Honor Flight of the Quad Cities. Send registration and/or sponsorship payment(s) to: Jake Ward, R.I.A. FCU, PO Box 4750, Rock Island, IL 61204. POC for the event is Jake at 563-355-3800 ext. 7004 or jward@riafcu.com.

Arsenal Attic Thrift Shop & Boutique

During the month of March, the Arsenal Attic Thrift Shop, Bldg. 60 Basement, will be open from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. every Tuesday, Thursday and 3rd Saturday (**March 21**). We've added this extra hour to accommodate our working customers. Remember, all proceeds go to providing scholarships for our military family seniors and continuing education students. We believe in this very worthy cause and hope you'll stop in to your Thrift Shop. POC 309-782-6977.



Arsenal Island Employee Local Discounts

The following discounts are exclusively available to Arsenal Island employees — **Chocolate Manor:** All Arsenal Island military and civilian employees will receive a 10 percent discount off their total purchase on any of our award winning homemade chocolates at 110 E. 2nd St., Davenport, just show your ID. **Roosters Sports Bar and Grill:** All military and civilian's get 10 percent off their bill. Come head down for lunch at 2130 3rd St., Rock Island, new specials daily. **Peachwave Frozen Yogurt:** Peachwave, 3431 Devils Glen Rd., Bettendorf, offers a 10 percent discount every day to all military and veterans. *This information is included for general workforce interest and does not constitute endorsement of the businesses or products.*



Arsenal Traffic/Construction



Construction to Affect Traffic at Moline Gate

Beginning Friday, **March 13**, through Friday, **March 27**, the Directorate of Public Works will be replacing the main guard booth at the Moline Gate. During this project the traffic pattern at the gate will be modified. During high volume hours (5-8:30 a.m.), the main inbound lane will be shut down with the two additional lanes open for traffic. A DA security guard will be positioned ahead of the

intersection of Cemetery Drive and Rodman Avenue to direct traffic to one of two lanes. Vehicles in the middle lane will enter the Arsenal and proceed directly to Rodman Avenue. Vehicles in the far right lane will enter the Arsenal and proceed directly to Blunt Road onto King Drive. During low volume hours the far right lane will be closed with the exception of emergencies. During this time vehicles will be allowed to enter the Arsenal either via Rodman Avenue or Blunt Road onto King Drive. Commercial vehicle traffic will be routed as normal through the turnaround at the vehicle inspection area. Depending on the size of the commercial vehicle, inbound traffic may be temporarily stopped to allow access.

Parking Closure Near Bldg. 64

Beginning Sunday, **March 1** through Wednesday, **July 1**, the Directorate of Public Works will begin replacing the roof on Bldg. 64. Parking along the east side of the street (2nd Street) will be closed **March 1 through May 8**. Parking along the west side of the street (3rd street) will be closed **April 17 through July 1**. During these closures fencing, barricades, and signage will be positioned, as required. Timeframes may be extended depending on weather related issues.

Reserved Parking for March 26 Retirement/Retreat Ceremony

Sixty-four spaces in Lot 3B along North and Gillespie North of Bldg. 360 will be reserved to support the RIA Retirement and Retreat Ceremony on **March 26**. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your labor relations specialist or ombudsmen.

Rock Island Viaduct Sidewalk Closed to Pedestrians

"Sidewalk Closed" signs have been erected at either end of the Rock Island Viaduct sidewalk. These signs were placed because of the tripping hazard that the condition of the sidewalk presents. Attached illustration indicates the suggested alternative route (STR276 American Discovery Trail and Pedestrian Bridge) during the closure.

Future Ft. Armstrong Construction

In the upcoming construction season, Rock Island Arsenal will be performing work on the intersection of Ft. Armstrong Drive and Rock Island Drive. This work will result in a full vehicle closure for the Installation's Rock Island Gate and Rock Island Viaduct, as well as restricting vehicles crossing the Government Bridge to "Installation-only" traffic. The American Discovery Trail will remain open. Construction is expected to last approximately two months, barring major weather delays. The exact construction start date is currently unknown. However, we have been coordinating with external agencies in an effort to minimize impact to the surrounding communities.



Building/Space Closures



There are no announcements at this time.

Active Duty/Reserve Zone



Senior Enlisted Advisers Testify On Quality Of Life on Capitol Hill

The senior enlisted advisers from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force were on Capitol Hill, Feb. 25, to testify on quality of life concerns in the services. The possible return of sequestration in fiscal year 2016 colored much of the discussion. Uncertainty over possible deterioration of healthcare benefits, compensation and family programs as well as job security were uniform among the four top enlisted leaders speaking before the House Appropriations Committee, subcommittee on military construction, veterans affairs and related agencies. ([More](#))

Army Eases Ban On Transgender Soldiers

The Army issued a directive Friday that protects transgender soldiers from being dismissed by mid-level officers by requiring the decision for discharge to be made by the service's top civilian for personnel matters. The Army's new policy is the latest indication that the military's ban on transgender troops may be eased or even lifted. Last month, Defense Secretary Ash Carter told troops he was "very open-minded" about transgender troops, adding that nothing but a person's ability to serve should keep them from serving. Two days later, White House press secretary Josh Earnest said President Obama endorsed Carter's comments. ([More](#))

Transition Summit Open to CAC Holders Armywide

Transitioning Soldiers can take part in more than 10 hours of live, online career-related discussion and presentations **March 11-13** as Fort Benning broadcasts its Soldier for Life transition summit on Defense Connect Online. Any Soldier, family member or veteran who can log in (a Common Access Card is required) may participate. National Transition Summits are designed to inform, educate, and connect Soldiers, veterans, and their spouses with local, regional, and national level resources and employment opportunities. Each summit is tailored to the needs of the individual garrison. Summits connect employers of every size and industry with individuals through town hall-style panel discussions, networking receptions, employment workshops and Hiring Our Heroes job fairs. To find out more about Soldier for Life (including the summit schedule) contact your installation SFL-Transition Assistance Program (formerly Army Career and Alumni Program) office. Summit events and URLs are: • [March 11, 4-5:30 p.m., Regimental Room, BCC](#) • [March 12, 10-11:30 a.m., Freedom Hall](#) • [March 13, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. & 1:30-5:10 p.m., Marshall Auditorium](#)

The Establishment Theatre, Fatherhood Program

Military Dads, bring the kids for dinner and a show Thursday, **March 12**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. This is an improv show that is family friendly and great for all ages. It will be a great time of laughs and fun when this improve show takes the stage. The Guys in Ties show is an interactive experience that will have you laughing out loud. Don't miss out on this Gem of the Quad City Area. Call 309-782-3049 for more info or to RSVP. ([Flyer](#))

Putnam Museum is a Blue Star Member Institution

The Putnam is now one of more than 2,000 museums across America to offer free admission to military personnel and their families this summer in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, and the Department of Defense. Any active duty military personnel including National Guard and Reserve, and up to five family members, receive free admission to the Museum and Science Center **Memorial Day through Labor Day**. "We are honored and excited to be able to bring this program



to our Quad Cities Military families," said President and CEO Kim Findlay. "Through our participation in the Blue Star Museums program, we are able to show our continued support for all our active military and thank them for their hard work and sacrifices." Leadership support has been provided by MetLife Foundation through Blue Star Families. The program provides families an opportunity to enjoy the nation's cultural heritage and learn more about their new communities after a military move. The complete list of participating museums is available at arts.gov/national/blue-star-museums.

Military Singles & Geo-Bachelors Dinner

Come all ranks and all branches to the Military Singles & Geo-bachelors Dinner on **April 1**, 5-7 p.m., in the USO spaces in Bldg. 110. The menu for the evening is slated to include: fried chicken, mashed potatoes, corn, rolls, and dessert. For more information and to RSVP please contact Jackie Inman at 309-782-3896 or via email at jinman@usoofillinois.org.

Inaugural Island-wide Baby Shower

Mark your calendars and save the date for the Inaugural Island-wide Baby Shower hosted by the Iowa State Chapter, Mississippi Valley Division March of Dimes. The event will take place **May 19**, 10 a.m. – Noon, at the Arsenal Island Golf Course Clubhouse. This baby shower is for all expecting Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve with military ID card holder spouses. To RSVP for the event, contact Deena at 563-323-6378. Space is Limited.



YMCA Camp Abe Lincoln Military Kids Camp

Military Kids Camp is a specialty camp for children with parents in the service. It is a great opportunity to build a community for military children ages 8-16 from **June 28 - July 3**. We have funding this year and are pleased to offer this camp again, free of charge. Space is limited, so we are currently [accepting applications here](#).

Military 4-H Scrapbooking SPIN Club

Explore, Engage, Innovate... the world of scrapbooking. Take photos you have and create a scrapbook that will last a lifetime. Each month youth will learn a new scrapbooking technique and create a page. Snacks will be at each meeting. Eligibility includes military youth, ages 12-18. This program will meet every 3rd Wednesday of the month, **Feb. 18 to Dec. 16**, 5:30-7 p.m., in the Cassion Room, in Bldg. 60. Cost includes a supply fee of \$20; non-4-H members add a \$20 program fee (fee waivers available upon request). [Register online today!](#) Or for more information call the University of Illinois Extension, Rock Island County 4-H Office at 309-756-9978.

University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate call 309-756-9978 at least two weeks in advance.

Safety Spotlight



ARMY SAFE
IS ARMY STRONG



Gun Safety Is No Accident

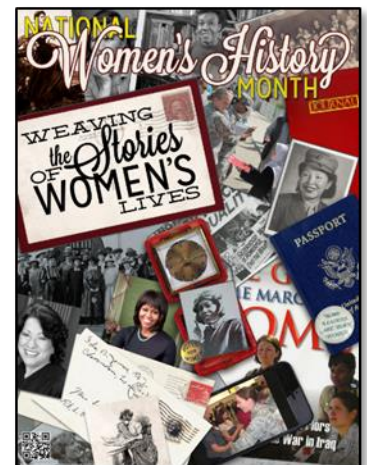
We are Soldiers! From the moment we step off the bus and report in at the reception station, we are introduced to the Army's values and strict standards of discipline. Drill sergeants enforce these standards and capitalize on every opportunity to ensure we're focused, trained and ready to do what the Army requires, to defend this nation if, when and where it may be necessary. Within days after entering basic combat training, we are familiarized with either the M-16 or M-4 weapon system. Here, we learn basic marksmanship fundamentals to include how to properly handle a weapon, disassemble and reassemble the weapon to zeroing and qualifying with it. Any sign of complacency or the mishandling of the weapon is immediately corrected by the drill sergeant and I'm sure you all know, it is not a pleasant experience. This is serious stuff. These noncommissioned officers knew never to relax standards because doing so put Soldiers at risk of injury or death whether on the battlefield or while conducting training at home station. ([More](#))

Equal Employment Opportunity Focus



Women's History Month: Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives

The Army dedicates each March to highlighting individual and collective stories of female Soldiers. Their stories are inextricably woven into the essential fabric of the nation's history and the history of the U.S. Army. This year, the Army acknowledges the accomplishments and contributions of pioneering women from the past and recognizes their impact on the force of today. The theme for this year's observance is: Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives. In just over two years, the Army has opened to women six previously closed military occupational specialties and over 55,000 positions across all Army components. For the first time in history, the Army recently allowed the female Soldiers to attend the Army's Ranger Course to possibly earn the Ranger tab. This is one of the many steps the Army is taking to integrate women into combat roles. Army leadership encourages the entire Army Family to publicly honor women's contributions by highlighting women and their military and civil service, at all levels, by telling their story in command information products. ([More](#))



Morale, Welfare & Recreation



Morale, Welfare & Recreation (MWR)

Visit the MWR website at www.riamwr.com for information on all MWR programs.

Remodel Project Begins on the Island Oasis Café

Crews will begin work on renovating the Island Oasis located inside the Fitness Center beginning Monday, **March 9**. However, the café will remain open during construction so stop by and grab a quick bite to eat for breakfast or lunch. More info on the Island Oasis including the menu can be [found here](#).

Dodgeball League

Get your team of four to six players together and get ready to duck, dodge and dash your way to victory. This four-versus-four league will play five games of five minutes each on Tuesday evenings at the Fitness Center. Rosters can have up to six players. Cost is \$40/team. Co-ed teams are welcomed but not required. League starts **March 24**, deadline to register is **March 20**. Call 309-782-5124 for more info and to register your team.

New Beginnings Fitness Class at the Fitness Center Resumes

Our instructor has returned and we're happy to once again be able to offer New Beginnings as part of our group fitness class schedule. This fitness program provides students with great physical and mental benefits. Offered in the middle of the day allows an opportunity to take that much needed break away from work. This class is designed for those new to exercise and is presented in a non-competitive environment. The instructor will take things slow, with the workouts beginning with a short walk/cardio segment, followed by simple strength exercises, and wrapping up with relaxing stretching movements. Exercise variations will be offered so both beginners, as well as slightly more advanced students, will reap great benefits and be challenged at their own fitness levels. Let today be the day you take that first step. Class is held Tuesdays and Thursdays 12-12:45 p.m. [More info on all classes can be found here](#).

Garden Plot Program Cancelled This Season

The annual Garden Plot Program will not be offered this year. The current site is located where construction of housing will begin this spring. We hope to have another site prepared and ready for the 2016 planting season. If you have additional questions please call Bob Lampert at 309-782-8630.

New Group Fitness Class at the Fitness Center

The Cardio Self Defense course is a workout that will increase your strength and flexibility. It is designed to not only train individuals on basic self-defense techniques but drill and strengthen those basic movements. This intense, total-body workout can improve strength, aerobic fitness, flexibility, coordination, and balance. It's a workout that blends elements of boxing, kickboxing and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu into a 60-minute exercise routine. Call 309-782-6787 for more info and to sign up. [Check out all the Fitness Center group fitness classes](#). ([Flyer](#))

Closure of Men's Dry Sauna

The RIA Fitness Center men's dry sauna will be closed for one month effective Feb. 17 due to renovations of the unit.

Group Fitness Class Survey

We want to hear from you. How can we structure our group fitness classes differently to make them more appealing and accessible to you? Please consider taking 1-2 minutes (that's all, we promise) to take this quick survey to tell us how we can serve you better. ([Survey](#))

Date Night Dance Classes

Come join local dance group, QC SoDa (QC Social Dancing), every Thursday, at 7 p.m., in Heritage Hall (Bldg. 60), for a fun evening of dance lessons in various styles including Swing, Salsa and more. Classes are \$8/person/class or \$35/individual or \$60/couple for the full six week session. Sign up and pay the first night you attend class. ([Flyer](#))



Office Hours

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Bldg. 333. The office is closed for lunch from 10:30–11 a.m., 309-782-5890. ([email](#)) ([website](#))

MWR Storage Units

Outdoor Recreation have several storage spaces available for rental. For more information please contact Outdoor Recreation at 309-782-8630.

Brit Floyd World Tour 2015 at the Adler Theatre

Paying attention to every musical detail and faithfully recreating the 'true' live Pink Floyd concert experience, Brit Floyd will take you on an amazing musical journey, featuring the best moments from the incredible Pink Floyd back catalogue, and combine the latest state-of-the-art sound & light technology to create a performance that is as sonically perfect as it is visually awesome. Discounted seats on sale until **March 16** at \$39.50. Limited seating.

Date: **Tuesday, March 24**

Time: **8-11 p.m.**

Church Basement Ladies (The Last Potluck Supper)

All new show – the latest and final installment in the uproarious series, the lovely ladies of the church kitchen serve up a rib-tickling panorama of the Church's changes, without spilling a drop of their egg coffee. Leisure Travel has discounted tickets on sale until **April 11**. This is a show that always sells out.

Date: **Saturday, April 25**

Time: **5:45 p.m.**

Chuggington Live! The Great Rescue Adventure at the Adler Theatre

In Chuggington Live! The Great Rescue Adventure the trainees are on their first day of advanced training, and are eager to impress their mentors by mastering new roles that test their courage,

speed, and determination. Limited discount seats available for \$33.50. Section B, Row G, Seats 1-10.

Date: **Tuesday, May 12**

Time: **6:30 p.m.**

Cubs vs. Cardinals Bus Trip

MWR Leisure Travel has a Cubs vs. Cardinals bus trip scheduled. Cost will be \$99 per person to include transportation and ticket to game. Seats are located in Upper Deck Box Outfield. Departing from RIA at 6 a.m. from the COL Davenport Pavilion. Limited alcohol permitted on chartered bus. Coolers must fit under the seats and not block the aisle. No glass bottles. No smoking permitted on motor coach. Estimated return time will be 8 p.m.

Date: **Saturday, Sept. 19**

Time: **12:05 p.m.**

Davenport Cinemark 53rd 18 + IMAX Theatre

Leisure Travel is selling Platinum Supersaver Prepaid Admission Tickets to Davenport Cinemark 53rd 18 + IMAX theatre (formerly 53rd cinemas and RAVE cinemas) These tickets have no restrictions or expiration date.

Child, Youth & School Services



2015 Military Child of the Year Award – Recognizing Young Patriots

Operation Homefront is pleased to present the Military Child of the Year Award to outstanding military children who demonstrate resiliency, leadership and achievement. Recipients representing each service branch are recognized at a Washington, DC Gala celebration in April each year. The seventh annual award will be presented **April 16** at the Ritz-Carlton, Pentagon City, near Washington, DC. In addition to the trip to our nation's capital, recipients are awarded a laptop computer and a \$10,000 award. To learn more about Operation Homefront and the Military Child of the Year Award, please go to: www.militarychildoftheyear.org

Army Community Service



ACS is located in Bldg. 110, 1st floor SE; [Visit our ACS website](#) or phone 309-782-0829. Call ahead for special accommodations when attending ACS classes. [Find us on Facebook click here.](#) 24/7 Sexual Assault Hotline: 309-229-8412.

Scream Free Marriage Course

This class provides participants with new skills and techniques to assist them in effective communication with their partner. Four sessions are offered for this course 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., in the Army Community Service spaces, in Bldg. 110. Session 1 (**March 10**): Calming down, growing up, & getting closer. Session 2 (**March 17**): The fires of marital commitment. Session 3 (**March 24**):

Getting closer through intimacy & love. Session 4 (**March 31**): Getting closer through intimacy and love. RSVP with Army Community Service at 309-782-0829. ([Flyer](#))

Army Family Team Building Level K (Knowledge of the Military) Class

This fun, interactive classroom training for military spouses, military personnel, community leaders, Family Readiness Groups, volunteers, DA civilians and contractors will give you a good working knowledge of what it means to be part of the Military community. These free classes are held Thursday mornings from 9-10 a.m. at Army Community Service (Bldg. 110). Please register no later than one week prior to the class session you wish to attend. ([Flyer](#)) Register by calling 309-782-0829.

Army Community Service OCONUS Briefing

Are you going out of the country? If so make sure to attend the Overseas Orientation Briefing held on the first Tuesday of every month at ACS, in Bldg. 110, and learn specifics and tips about your new duty location. Individual relocation counseling is also available by appointment, call 309-782-0829 to schedule your appointment. ([Flyer](#))

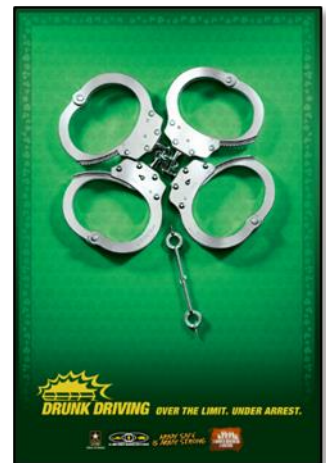
Employee Assistance Program



St. Patrick's Day Drinking and Driving Prevention

Don't Depend on Dumb Luck—Designate a Sober Driver Before the Party Begins

For many Americans, St. Patrick's Day has become a popular night out to celebrate with friends and family. Unfortunately, due to the large number of drunk drivers, the night out has also become very dangerous. On St. Patrick's Day 2010, 37 percent of the drivers and motorcyclists involved in fatal crashes had a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) of .08 or above, according to statistics by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Additional NHTSA statistics show that in 2010, there were 103 crash fatalities on St. Patrick's Day. Out of that number, 39 people were killed in traffic crashes that involved at least one driver or motorcyclist with a blood alcohol concentration BAC of .08 or higher. The RIA Army Substance Abuse Program recommends the following easy steps, for a safe St. Patrick's Day. • Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin; • Before drinking, please designate a sober driver and leave your car keys at home; • If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely; • If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to contact your local law enforcement. • And remember, if you know someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.



Education/Training Review



The Rock Island Army Education Center is located in Bldg. 56, 1st floor, west end of the building. Office hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday - Friday. Phone: 309-782-2065 Fax: 309-782-7901. [Please visit our website to learn more.](#)

Joint Services Transcripts

ACE provides quality assurance and policy guidance for the JST used by the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Coast Guard. More than 2,300 colleges and universities recognize these transcripts as official documentation of military training and experiences and applicable ACE credit recommendations. Some New Highlights: * Soldiers can now track when their transcript has been viewed by a college and who viewed it. No more guessing about whether the school received it or when. * JST has added the ability for the Service Member to name a counselor to receive it as well for counseling purposes. * In progress, is the ability for a Service Member to send documentation to JST if they find something out of order with their JST transcript. * Next steps for JST include the ability to request DoD High School transcripts for overseas schools and provide for electronic delivery. Graduates can receive records going back 60 years. Learn more about college credit for military service at <https://jst.doded.mil/smart/signIn.do>.

New CLEP & DSST Study Guides Available at the RIA Education Center

CLEP and DSST tests are a great way for those in the military to earn college credit. RIA Education Center, now, has the study guides available for you to check out. We have 59 different subjects available, each in their own dedicated book. Each subject is taught from beginning to end and most people do not need prior knowledge of the subject. Each study guide includes course material, sample test questions and flashcards. Call or visit the Ed. Center, Bldg. 56, Room 118 or 309-782-2065.

NDIA Scholarship

The Iowa Illinois Chapter NDIA is accepting applications for its one-year \$2,000 scholarship. This scholarship is available to high school senior students of the NDIA chapter members and civilian and military employees on Arsenal Island. Scholarship applications can be found at www.ndia-ia-il.org. Applications must be postmarked no later than **March 24**. Call John Masengarb, 563-650-3252, for additional information.

NDIA Lifetime Achievement Awards

Nominations are being accepted for the Lt. Gen. (Ret) Lawrence Skibbie award for Lifetime Contributions to National Defense, the Maj. Gen. (Ret) William Eicher award for Lifetime Contributions to the Weapons Industrial Base and the Maj. Gen. (Ret) Paul Greenberg award for Lifetime Contributions to the Ammunition Industrial Base. Applications must be postmarked no later than **April 12**. Send nominations to Jimmy Morgan, 289 Niabi Zoo Road, Coal Valley, IL 61240 or jimcmorgan@aol.com. Application details at www.ndia-ia-il.org.

Sgt. Paul Fisher Scholarship

The Iowa Illinois Chapter NDIA is accepting applications for its one-year \$2,000 Sgt. Paul Fisher Scholarship. This scholarship is available high school seniors of active military, reserve, National Guard, or veteran in zip codes 61200-61699 in Illinois and 50000-52899 in Iowa. Scholarship applications can be found at www.ndia-ia-il.org. Applications must be postmarked no later than **March 24**. Call John Masengarb, 563-650-3252, for additional information.

Rock Island Arsenal Welcome Club Scholarship

The Rock Island Arsenal Welcome Club Scholarship applications are now available at the Thrift Shop and Education Center. There are two applications: high school seniors and continuing education students. The merit-based scholarship is open to applicants who have not previously received an RIAWC scholarship and who meet the RIA affiliation qualifications set forth in the application. Completed applications must be postmarked by **March 16**. Questions can be sent to scholarship chair Nicole Kirschmann at RIAWCScholarships2015@yahoo.com. Information for the 2015 RIAWC Scholarship can be found at www.facebook.com/RIAWC and <https://sites.google.com/site/rockislandarsenalwelcomeclub>.

Army Emergency Relief Announces Opening of Scholarship Application Period

Army Emergency Relief has announced the opening of its scholarship application period. Applications will be accepted from **Jan. 2** until **May 1**. AER supports both the Spouse Scholarship Program, as well as the Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Program for dependent children. Scholarship specifics and the applications are available on [AER's website](#). The Spouse Scholarship can be used for full or part-time students, while the Ursano Scholarship is only for full-time students. Last year AER awarded 3,637 scholarships, totaling more than \$8.8 million to Spouses and Children of Soldiers. "The entire scholarship process is on line," said Tammy LaCroix, manager for AER's scholarship programs. "Last year we found that the on line process worked best for those who downloaded the step-by-step instructions and used them as a checklist." "Applicants are able to create their own profile, submit their documentation online, and check their status," added LaCroix. "This proved to be a huge time saver for both the applicants and the scholarship staff." ([More](#))

RIA AUSA Scholarship Program 2015-2016

The Rock Island Arsenal Association of the United States Army announces the annual scholarship program for 2015-2016 school year. Applications are available on the RIA AUSA web site at www.ria-ausa.org. Eligible applicants must reside in the RIA AUSA geographical footprint covering eastern Iowa and western Illinois identified in the application, and be associated with the military as a current military member, veteran, family member or DoD civilian. Applicants can download the application and return it completed no later than **May 1** to the mailing address listed in the application form. Questions can be directed to the RIA AUSA chapter representative Tim Considine, at considinet@aol.com or by calling 512-565-4089.

Area Schools to Visit RIA

The [Army Continuing Education Systems Rock Island Arsenal](#) is coordinating with Quad-City area schools to have them visit with eligible Ed Center patrons where they will meet with school representatives and learn about educational opportunities in the Quad Cities. These visits will take place in Bldg. 56, Room 121, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The schedule for this fiscal year is: • Ashford University, **April 21**, and **July 23**; • Black Hawk College, **April 9** and **July 9**; • Eastern Iowa Community College, **April 2**, **May 7**, **June 4**, **July 2**, **Aug. 6** and **Sept. 3**; • Kaplan University,

May 14, and Aug. 13; • Saint Ambrose University, April 16, and July 16; • Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences, May 21 and Aug. 20; • Upper Iowa University, May 13, and Aug. 12.

Defense Commissary Agency / Exchange



The [Rock Island Commissary](#) and the [Exchange](#) are for active duty military and retirees only. There are exceptions for select items (mainly consumable) at the Exchange that can be purchased by Arsenal Island employees with ID. The Commissary makes fresh fruit baskets daily for you! Shopping for someone who has everything? Problem solved. They are hungry for fresh fruit. Just buy them a fruit basket and relax. Ask our friendly staff to make you one or order one in advance. Check out local specials and get POC information [HERE](#). For information on this and other Commissaries, visit: www.commissaries.com ([Facebook](#))

RIA MWR, Commissary and Post Exchange Advisory Council Meeting

The Rock Island Arsenal MWR, Commissary and Post Exchange Advisory Council will meet from 1-2 p.m., Thursday, **March 19**, in the second floor conference room of the Garrison headquarters, Bldg. 90. People interested in submitting questions to the council via Facebook can do so through that date on the following link: <http://on.fb.me/1zhL3aT>

DoD Plan Would 'Destroy' Commissaries, Industry Representatives Say

The Defense Department's fiscal 2016 budget request would slash taxpayer support of base grocery stores by \$322 million in 2016 and by \$1 billion next year, enough to "destroy" the shopping benefit, warns the American Logistics Association. ALA, which represents manufacturers, distributors and brokers of products sold in commissaries and base exchanges, released a position paper that contrasts DoD's plan to "wreck" commissaries with less onerous recommendations of a blue-ribbon panel to consolidate all base store operations to gain efficiencies. ([More](#))

Exchange Opens Earlier, Serves Breakfast

The Exchange located on Rock Island Arsenal began opening at 7 a.m. Oct. 1. Also effective Oct. 1, the Exchange began featuring heat-and-eat breakfast items at the front of the store. "We will be running these hours for two months to make sure that there will be demand to be open at 7 a.m.," said Carl Wolfe, store manager, Rock Island Exchange. "We are really hoping with the Exchange having an entire new 'Heat and Eat,' that we will cater to the Soldiers coming on the Island in the morning and we know a lot of them have PT in the mornings and this will give them a chance to grab something before they go in the office for the day." The new open-to-close store hours are 7 a.m. – 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday; and 8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. on Saturdays. The "Heat and Eat" items being sold in the mornings will include: Breakfast Tornados, Breakfast Deli Express sandwiches, Cappuccino, and coffee, Roller Bites, and Breakfast Style Pizza. The Exchange will also have a lunch menu to include: Tornado's, Deli Express hot and cold sandwiches, hot dogs, Polish sausage, jalapeno sausage, Roller Bites, egg rolls, and pizza. In addition, the Exchange will also have microwaveable meals, soup, and Asian noodles for sale all day long.



Arsenal Archive



Information for the Arsenal Archive is made available by the Rock Island Arsenal Museum. The Museum is open to the public, Tuesday through Saturday, 12-4 p.m. Closed Sunday, Monday, federal holidays, the Friday after Thanksgiving, and Christmas Eve. Admission is free. ([website](#))

This Week in Rock Island Arsenal History – March 2-8

During the first week of March 1918, Col. L. T. Hillman assumed command of the RIA. In March 1875, RIA Commander Maj. D. W. Flagler ordered 288,000 lbs. of old horseshoes be salvaged as scrap iron. The recycled iron was used for the construction of some of the shop columns. In March 1932, Col. Herman Schull assumed command of the RIA. In March 1878, the RIA began construction of Shop H (Bldg. 66) & Shop I (Bldg. 110). In March 1881, construction of Shop K (Bldg. 68) began. In March 1960, RIA was engaged in research and development work with the design of the 115mm artillery-type rocket launcher, XM70 for the U.S. Marine Corps. In March 1873, RIA Commander Major D. W. Flagler prepared a list of regulations to govern uses of and conduct on the Government Bridge from Rock Island to Davenport.

Healthbeat



Rock Island Arsenal Health Clinic Closure

The Rock Island Arsenal Health Clinic will be closed the afternoon of Friday, **March 20**, from 12-4 p.m., for training. However, we will be open on the last Friday of the month, **March 27**.

Clean Up Your Diet in Three Easy Steps

It is time to stop faking it. Stop faking your way through a diet consisting of highly processed, pre-packaged foods with long ingredient lists. Ever wonder why you crave sugar or salt? Highly processed foods oftentimes add in extra sugar and/or salt to make their products more enticing--not to mention--addicting. Celebrate this year's theme for National Nutrition Month--Bite Into a Healthy Lifestyle--by committing to cleaning up your diet (and your palate) with these three easy steps.

([More](#))

Keep Gum Disease at Bay for You and Your Family

The ability to speak, smile, smell, taste, chew, swallow and convey our feelings and emotions through facial expressions is an essential part of everyday life, but is easily taken for granted. These activities are dependent on having good oral health; however, oral diseases cause pain, impaired function and disability for millions of Americans. One oral disease that is frequently overlooked is gum disease. If you think gum disease only happens to older people, think again! According to the American Dental Association, it only takes 24 hours for enough bacteria to form in the mouth to start causing gum disease. ([More](#))

Annual Eye Exams Can Prevent Disease

Age Related Macular Degeneration or Macular Degeneration is an eye disease that affects thousands of people every year. AMD typically affects patients over the age of 50, but it does not always respect age boundaries. It can affect people that are much younger. AMD is a disease of the macula, which is the part of the eye that is responsible for central vision. This disease occurs when blood vessels in the back of the inside of the eye start to grow abnormally and become leaky, or their growth disrupts the layers of the retina and allows the accumulation of debris, fluid or blood between the layers, which decreases vision. Doctors characterize this disease as a wet form or a dry form and family history, overall health and lifestyle are contributing factors. ([More](#))



Notes for Veterans

VA Calls for Its Own BRAC Process to Close Outdated Facilities

On Capitol Hill, there are few four-letter words that are quite as unspeakable as "BRAC" these days. Nonetheless, the Department of Veterans Affairs has come to the conclusion that it needs something similar to the Defense process for closing excess bases so that it can offload hundreds of crumbling buildings and bring its medical infrastructure more in line with what it takes to run a modern health system. In contrast to DoD, VA's problem is not mainly about a raw overabundance of unused real estate: Indeed, it's asking for a \$493 million increase in 2016 from its previous \$1 billion construction budget in order to build new hospitals and clinics. Rather, the department says, too many of its existing facilities are in places where a lot of veterans used to live but don't anymore, were built in a bygone era of different health care delivery models, or have crumbled so badly that they're beyond the point of economical use. ([More](#))

VA encourages Eligible Veterans to Apply for 2015 Veterans Summer Sports Clinic

The Department of Veterans Affairs is accepting applications from Veterans interested in participating in the 2015 National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic. The 2015 National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic will be held Sept.13-18 at the VA San Diego Healthcare System in San Diego, California. The annual event is expected to attract Veterans from all over the country who have sustained a variety of injuries ranging from traumatic brain injury and polytrauma, to spinal cord injury or loss of limb. "I encourage every Veteran who may be eligible to take advantage of this opportunity," said VA Secretary Robert McDonald. "There is rehabilitative power in leading an active lifestyle and learning new skills and activities." The National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic represents VA's continued commitment to offer adaptive sports and recreation therapy as an integral part of a successful rehabilitation program. The deadline to apply for the 2015 National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic is May 1. For more information or for an application, visit www.summersportsclinic.va.gov.

Around the Q.C.



C

March 2-8: [3rd Annual Quad Cities Restaurant Week](#) (Greater Quad Cities)
March 7: [24th Annual Women's Health & Lifestyle Fair](#) (RiverCenter, Davenport)
March 8: [Hand-in-Hand Special Needs Expo](#) (3860 Middle Road, Bettendorf, 9:30 a.m. - Noon)
March 13: [Gathering of the Clan Luncheon](#) (TBD)
March 14: [St. Patrick's Day Parade](#) (The District, Rock Island & Downtown Davenport)
March 14: [Cancer Benefit for Patricia Fisher, 1-6 p.m.](#) (Leisure Time Billiards, East Moline)
March 26-29: [QCCA Flower and Garden Show](#) (QCCA Expo Center, Rock Island)
March 28: [Havana Daydreamn' 11th Annual Havana Daydreamn' by the Quad City Parrot Head Club](#) (Waterfront Convention Center, Bettendorf)
April 11: [Bandits Race to Home 5K](#) (Modern Woodmen Park)
April 11: [Marine Corps League Trivia Night](#) (American Legion Post #26, 702 West 35th Street, Davenport)
April 11: [18th Annual Public Swap Meet](#) (QCCA)
April 18: [Quad Cities on Tap Craft Beer Festival](#) (QCCA)
April 25: [March of Dimes March for Babies](#) (Rock Island Arsenal, Memorial Park)
April 25: [Quad Cities Cruisers Cruise-In](#) (3-6 p.m., Davenport Learning Center, 1002 W Kimber Rd.)
May 2: [Festival of the Arts' Village in Bloom](#) (Village of East Davenport)
May 4-10: [Navy Week Quad Cities](#) (Quad City Area)
May 9-10: [29th Quad City Air Show, featuring the U.S. Navy Blue Angels](#) (Davenport Municipal Airport)
May 9-10: [Beaux Arts Fair](#) (Figge Art Museum Plaza, Downtown Davenport)
May 10-11: [Scott County Kennel Club AKC Dog Show](#) (QCCA)
May 16: [Quad Cities Cruisers Cruise-In](#) (6-9 p.m., Davenport Learning Center, 1002 W Kimber Rd.)
May 22-31: [Historic Homes & Gardens of the Scottish Highlands](#) (QC Botanical Center, Rock Island)
May 25: [50th Annual Quad Cities](#) Criterium (Village of East Davenport)
June 1-6: [25th Annual Quad Cities Senior Olympics](#) (1800 3rd Ave, Rock Island)
June 3, 4: [U.S. Army & NDIA Small Business/APBI Symposium](#) (iWireless Center)
June 5-6: [Rhubarb Festival](#) (Aledo, Ill.)
June 6: [QC Pridefest](#) (Downtown Davenport)
June 12-13: [Gumbo Ya Ya](#) (The District, Rock Island)
June 13: [Quad Cities Cruisers Cruise-In Carshow](#) (4-9 p.m., Davenport Learning Center, 1002 W Kimber Rd.)
June 13-21: [Quad Cities Museum Week](#) (Greater Quad Cities)
June 17-20: [Rally on the River](#) (Centennial Park, Davenport)
June 20: [2nd Annual Micro Brew Mile & 6K Road Race](#) (Moline)
June 21: [Ride the River Bike Ride](#) (Mississippi River bike paths, Iowa & Illinois)
June 28: [Blossoms at Butterworth](#) (Butterworth Center, Deere family homes, Moline)
July 3: [Red, White & Boom!](#) (The District, Rock Island & Downtown Davenport)
July 2-4: [Mississippi Valley Blues Festival](#) (LeClaire Park, downtown Davenport)
July 4: [Firecracker Run & Parade](#) (Run starts at 7:30 a.m. with the parade at 1 p.m., East Moline)
July 4: [Bettendorf Old-Fashioned 4th of July](#) (parade at 10 a.m.)
July 6-12: [John Deere Classic PGA TOUR](#) (TPC Deere Run golf course, Silvis, Ill.)
July 9-11: [Walcott Truckers Jamboree](#) (Iowa 80 Truckstop, Walcott, Iowa)
July 11: [Quad Cities Cruisers Cruise-In](#) (6-9 p.m., Davenport Learning Center, 1002 W Kimber Rd.)
July 15-19: [Rock Island County Fair](#) (Fairgrounds, East Moline)
July 24-25: [Downtown Street Fest](#) (2nd Street in downtown Davenport)
July 25: [Bix 7 Run/Walk](#) (Downtown Davenport)
July 30-Aug. 2: [Bix Beiderbecke Memorial Jazz Festival](#) (RiverCenter/Adler Theatre, Davenport)
Aug. 4-9: [Great Mississippi Valley Fair](#) (Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds, Davenport)
Aug. 6: [Freedom Run 5k](#) (Moline)
Aug. 7-8: [Ya Maka My Weekend](#) (The District, Rock Island)
Aug. 8: [Quad Cities Cruisers Cruise-In](#) (6-9 p.m., Davenport Learning Center, 1002 W Kimber Rd.)
Aug. 13-15: [Tug Fest](#) (LeClaire, Iowa & Port Byron, Ill.)

Aug. 15: [Floatzilla](#) (Sunset Marina, Rock Island)
Aug. 28-29: [River Roots Live](#) (Downtown Davenport)
Aug. 28-30: [World Series of Dragracing](#) (Cordova Dragway, Cordova, Ill.)
Sept. 5-6: [Rock Island Grand Prix](#) (Downtown Rock Island)
Sept. 5-7: [Labor Day Weekend Pow Wow](#) (Black Hawk State Historic Site, Rock Island)
Sept. 12: [Quad City Symphony Riverfront Pops](#) (LeClaire Park, downtown Davenport)
Sept. 12: [QCA Heritage Tractor Parade & Show](#) (John Deere Pavilion, Moline)
Sept. 12: [Quad Cities Cruisers Cruise-In](#) (6-9 p.m., Davenport Learning Center, 1002 W Kimber Rd.)
Sept. 12-13: [Beaux Arts Fair](#) (Downtown Davenport)
Sept. 18-19: [Celtic Festival & Highland Games](#) (Centennial Park, Davenport)
Sept. 19: [Brew Ha Ha](#) (LeClaire Park, Davenport)
Sept. 19-20: [Riverssance Festival of Fine Arts](#) (Village of East Davenport)
Sept. 27: [Quad Cities Marathon](#) (downtown Moline)
Sept. 25-27: [Hot Air Balloon Festival](#) (Kennedy Square, East Moline)
Oct. 10: [Trinity Quad Cities Classic Regatta](#) (Mississippi River in Moline)
Oct. 10: [Quad Cities Cruisers Cruise-In](#) (3-6 p.m., Davenport Learning Center, 1002 W Kimber Rd.)
Oct. 11: [Apple Fest](#) (Downtown LeClaire, Iowa)
Oct. 29: [Fright Night](#) (The District, Rock Island)
Oct. 24: [Lagomarcino's Cocoa Beano 5K Race](#) (Village of East Davenport)
Nov. 20-29: [Quad City Arts Festival of Trees](#) (RiverCenter, Davenport)
Nov. 21: [Festival of Trees Parade](#) (Downtown Davenport)
Nov. 21: [Lighting on the John Deere Commons](#) (Downtown Moline)
Dec. 4-6: [Heartland Emergency Response Conference Expo](#) (QCCA)



Island Insight



Col. Elmer Speights, Jr., Garrison Commander; Eric Cramer, Public Affairs Officer; Mark Kane, Editor

The Army publication, Island Insight, is an unofficial publication authorized under AR 360-1 to provide information on people, policies, operations, technical developments, trends and ideas of, about, and of interest to the Rock Island Arsenal community. It is published weekly using word processing software and Adobe PhotoShop using Portable Document Format reproduction for online distribution with the use of federal funds under provisions of AR 360-1 by the Rock Island Arsenal-Garrison Public Affairs Office. Contents of Island Insight are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Army. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Garrison or the Department of the Army. The editorial content of Island Insight is the responsibility of the Rock Island Arsenal-Garrison Public Affairs Office. [Submission of announcements, articles, photos, letters, and graphic art of interest to the general readership is encouraged.](#) All manuscripts are subject to editing and rewriting prior to publication. Postal address: Garrison Manager, 1 Rock Island Arsenal, ATTN: IMRI-PA, Rock Island, IL 61299-5000. For [submission of announcements to the Island Insight](#); usarmy.ria.imcom-central.mbx.usag-ria-pa@mail.mil; Phone: 309-782-1121. [The Island Insight is available on-line.](#)

